



**SOURCE
FOR STREAM**

2026
Conference

Canada's Premier
Stormwater and Erosion
and Sediment Control
Conference

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Insights from 15 Years of School Rain Gardens: Successes, Challenges, and Community Impact

Presented by: Amanda Slaght, Specialist, Credit Valley Conservation

Date: March 31, 2026

Presentation Overview

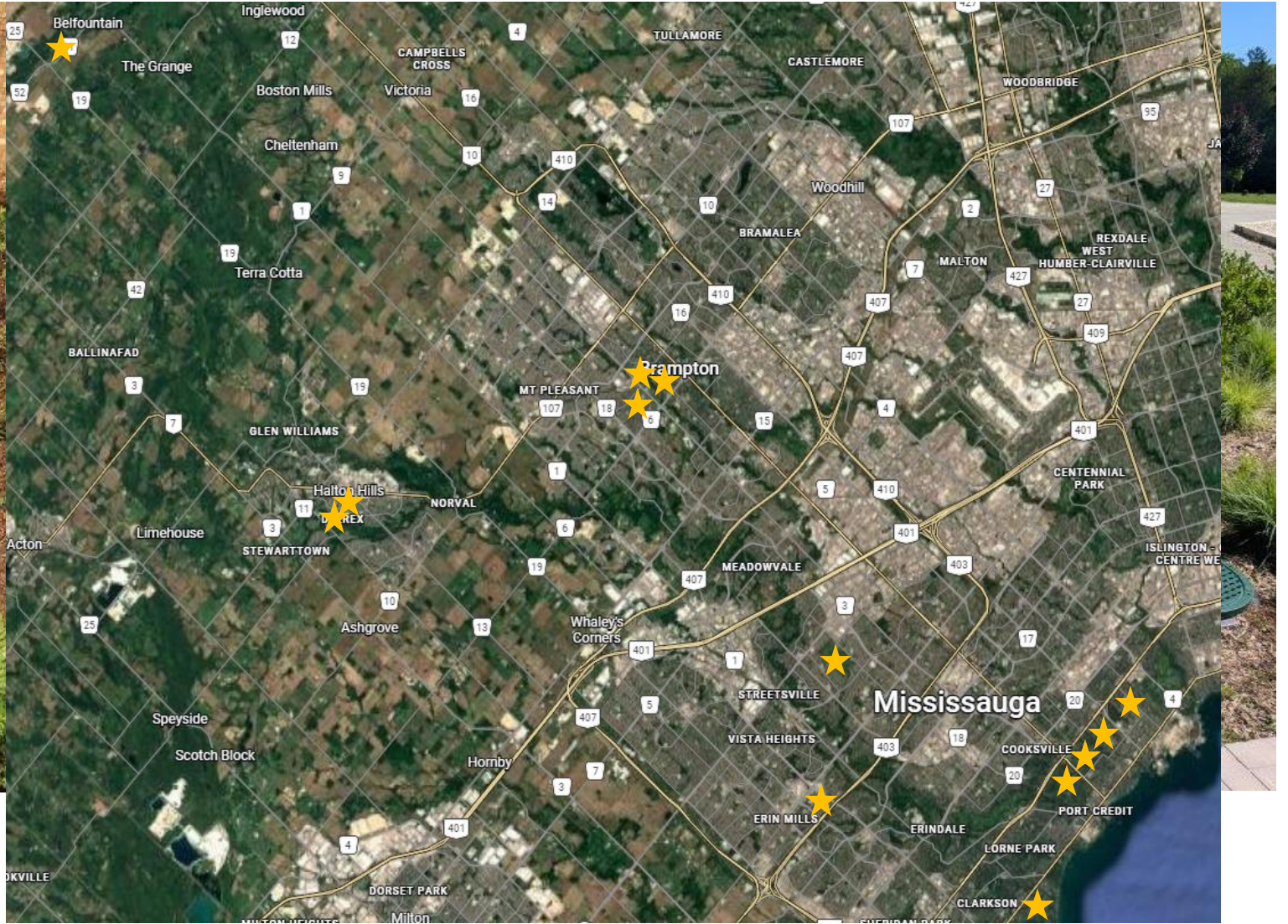
- Students for Stormwater Program
- Strategies used in the program
- Our successes
- Challenges and lessons learned
- Ideas for moving forward



Students for Stormwater Program



School
Green Glade Sr. Public School
Kenollie Public School
Allan A. Martin Sr. Public School
Glendale Public School
Belfountain Public School
Mineola Public School
Janet I. McDougald Public School
Whitehorn Public School
Credit Valley Public School
Our Lady of Fatima
St. Joseph Elementary
George Kennedy Public School
Centennial Public School



Students for Stormwater Program



Strategies

How we got started...

- One rain garden at a time
- Variety of sizes, complexity, cost
- Started Students for Stormwater
- Aggregated approach
- Looked for efficiencies and cost savings
- Biodiversity and natural look



Funding and Partnerships

- Early rain gardens: RBC Blue Water Program, local horticulture and landscaping organizations, Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, TD Friends of the Environment, Toronto Zoo
- EcoAction grant - \$100,000 to build 6 rain gardens in 3 years
- Corporate Sponsor: Canon Canada
- Peel District School Board
- Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
- Halton District School Board

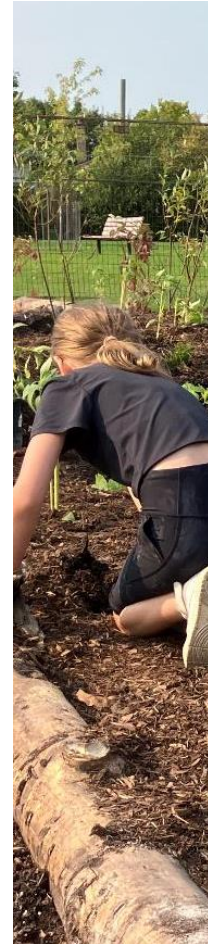
Working with Sustainable Neighbourhoods

- Build within CVC's Sustainable Neighbourhoods (SNAPs)
- Increases support and engagement with school and community
- Support from Education and Community Outreach teams
- Fletcher's Creek SNAP
 - Glendale Public School, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Joseph Elementary
- Hungry Hollow SNAP
 - George Kennedy Public School, Centennial Public School



Engage the Students and Staff

- In class presentations to all students
- Learn about the rain garden
- Planting day
- Spring maintenance training
- Curriculum document



Students for Stormwater
Educational Resource



Engage the Community

- Bring community together
- Example to residents
- Educational signage



Work with Corporate Sponsors

- Corporate sponsors provide funds to build rain garden
- Plant the rain gardens
- Help with rain garden maintenance



Successes

School	Year	# of Plants	Land Converted (m ²)	# of student & corporate volunteers
Green Glade Sr. Public School	2011	570	90	160
Kenollie Public School	2016	125	80	150
Allan A. Martin Sr. Public School	2018	235	150	450
Glendale Public School	2019	2000	1,335	345
Belfountain Public School	2021	410	130	200
Mineola Public School	2021	500	235	60
Janet I. McDougald Public School	2021	425	210	0
Whitehorn Public School	2022	1060	260	120
Credit Valley Public School	2022	600	195	135
Our Lady of Fatima	2022	935	290	75
St. Joseph Elementary	2023	1025	330	215
George Kennedy Public School	2024	1150	350	165
Centennial Public School	2025	860	235	135
	Total	9,895	3,890	2,210

Glendale Public School



Belfountain Public School



Planting Day



3 Years Later

George Kennedy Public School



Student Engagement



Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Staff turnover
- Maintenance
- High traffic areas
- Materials
- Vandalism

Maintenance and Aesthetic Expectations

- Maintenance is a challenge
- Less support for rain gardens not in a SNAP
- Maintenance training in the spring during establishment
- Manicured vs. natural



Maintenance – Green Glade Sr. Public School



High Traffic - Mineola Public School



Material Selection - Credit Valley Public School



Vandalism - St. Joseph Elementary



George Kennedy Public School



Moving Forward

- School selection
- School champion and maintaining relationships
- Provide maintenance training and resources
- Community stewardship group
- Pocket forest or mini-forest approach



Thank You

For more information:

Contact

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Visit us today for more information

We will be at booth # 8!



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